

REMARKS

The undersigned tried to set up an interview with the Examiner to discuss the amendment. Because an attempt to set up an interview failed, the Examiner is respectfully urged to contact the undersigned if the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 9-13, 15 and 17 under U.S.C. 102(e). These rejections are fully traversed below.

Claims 1, 4-8, 19, 24-27 and 29 have been allowed.

Claims 14, 18-21 and 24-31 have been allowed if placed in independent form.

Claims 9, 14, 15 and 21 have been amended. Claims 32-42 have been added. Claim 31 has been cancelled. Thus, claims 1, 4-21, 24-30 and 32-42 are pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

Claim Objections

Claim 20 has already been amended to depend from claim 19 (in the previous response).

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Claims 9-13, 15 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Wang* (6,659,516).

In order to expedite prosecution, claim 9 has been amended to include allowable subject matter (see “allowed subject matter” below). The rejections to claims 9-13 are therefore moot.

In contrast to *Wang*, claim 15 (and its dependents) specifically requires, “...the latch containing an electronic feature in the form of an input or output device that is operatively coupled to the processor ...” Accordingly, the rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

Although the rejections to the dependent claims should be withdrawn for at least the reasons as above, it should be noted that they offer additional language that is unsupported by the art.

New Independent Claim 36

In contrast to all the references cited in this and previous office actions, claim 36 (and its dependents) specifically requires, "...a support member that is movably retained to the lid so that the latch housing moves relative to the lid, the support member extending from the latch housing to an internal portion of the lid, the support member including an opening therethrough that provides a passage between the latch housing and the internal portion of the lid, the latch housing containing one or more electronic components that are electrically coupled to the control electronics through wires that extend through the opening in the support member such that they are hidden from view."

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 4-8, 19, 24-27 and 29 have been allowed.

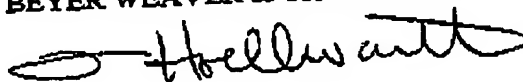
Claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of allowed dependent claim 31. Allowed dependent claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations of independent claim 9. Allowed dependent claim 21 has been amended to include the limitations of independent claim 9. Claims 9, 14 and 21 (and their dependents) are therefore allowable as the Examiner indicated allowable subject matter in the outstanding Office Action.

SUMMARY

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,

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